



**Friends in Deed** - MTA officials give a hero's welcome to 'Good Samaritan' transit rider Lajuan Ramsey, center, at Operations Committee meeting. Pictured are, from left, Redline Supt. Jess Diaz, Lajuan's mother Sophia Ramsey, Capt. Dan Finkelstein, Ramsey, Transit chief Richard Hunt, Security chief Paul Lennon and Rail chief Ralph de la Cruz.

## Operations Committee Comes to the Aid of 'Good Samaritan'

By GAYLE ANDERSON

No good deed goes unpunished, it must be written somewhere, but in the case of a Good Samaritan who came to the aid of a fellow transit passenger, a certain good deed was, at least, reimbursed.

In the early evening of May 31, Venice resident Lajuan Ramsey, a 17-year-old high school student, was awaiting arrival of a Metro Blue Line train at the Wilmington Station when, suddenly, a fellow passenger slipped from the platform. The quick-thinking Ramsey discarded his backpack and immediately leapt to the passenger's assistance.

In the meantime, an equally quick-thinking thief had snatched the backpack from the platform and made off with its contents. They included Ramsey's monthly Metro pass, wallet, school books and, by chance, his birth certificate.

When word of the incident reached MTA officials by way of the watch commander's log, a grateful staff from the Office of Safety and Security began looking for a way to compensate the Good Samaritan. Soon, Ramsey's name was added to the agenda of the MTA Board of Directors Operations Committee meeting, where he was to be presented with a commendation.

When the young man, flanked by a proud mother and his 7-year-old sister, arrived at the MTA Board Room July 19, he received more than an official pat on the back. Tacked onto the commendation was a check for \$231, the amount estimated to cover the replacement cost of the backpack and its contents.

Lajuan Ramsey remained silent in the glow of a hero's welcome, softly thanking a squadron of sheriff's deputies and admiring MTA officials before exiting with his laurels and a bright new Metro Pass.

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